

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT IN ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARTS

STATE FOR CU/IVP/MR, CU/EE, EUR/SOV; USIA FOR IEU

REF: (A) MOSCOW 10256 (B) STATE A-3472

1. RECENT EASING OF TENSIONS BETWEEN USSR AND US HAVE BEEN RELECTED IN INCREASED PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES FOR US PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS (PAGS) THROUGH GOSKONTSERT (GOSK) AND MIN CULT. NEXT YEAR'S OFFICIAL PAG PROGRAM ENVISAGES FIVE US PAGS OT USSR, MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, AND BOTH MINCULT AND GOSK HAVE EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN EXPANDING THAT PROGRAM EVEN FURTHER BY INVITING AND FUNDING ADDITIONAL AMERICAN GROUPS OUTSIDE THE PROGRAM. THIS EXPANSION IS INHIBITED BY TWO FACTORS: (A) THE CAPACITY OF GOSK AND MIN CULT'S MANAGEMENT METHODS TO HANDLE PAGS AND (B) GOSK'S AND MINCULT'S LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN GROUPS THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR DIRECT INVITATION OUTSIDE THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT.

2. THE MILTI-REGIONAL PROJECT IN ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARTS PRESENTS SINGULAR OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE AND INFORM BOTH MIN CULT AND GOSK ABOUT MORE MODERN MANAGEMENT METHODS AND PAGS AVAILABLE FOR INVITATION TO USSR OUTSIDE THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT. IN LIGHT OUR ENLARGED PROGRAM AND INCREASED POTENTIAL, POST URGES THAT TWO NOMINEES BE ACCEPTED
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FOR THE PROJECT.

3. POST WISHES TO NOMINATE VLADIMIR MIKHAILOVICH KOKONIN. KOKONIN IS DEPUTY DIRECTOR (FOR ARTISTIC MATTERS) OF GOSK, THE STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR BOOKING CONCERTS THROUGHOUT THE SOVIET UNION. BORN IN MOSCOW IN 1938, HE HAS TRAVELED IN EUROPE BUT NEVER TO THE UNITED STATES, AND IS A SOVIET CITIZEN OF RUSSIAN NATIONALITY. HE GRADUATED FROM THE MOSCOW CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC (CLARINET) AND HAS WORKED EXTENSIVELY AS A MANGER IN THE PERFORMING ARTS FIELD. HE WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE POST ON EXHCNAGES OF PERFORMING ARTISTS. HIS BACKGROUND, PRESENT POSITION AND YOUTH MAKE HIM AN IDEAL CANDIDATE FOR THIS PROGRAM.

4. POST ALSO WISHES TO NOMINATE ALLA ALEKSANDROVNA BUTROVA, CHIEF OF THE AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE. IN HER 50'S MRS. BUTROVA HAS BEEN TO THE UNITED STATES AT LEAST THREE TIMES ASNHART OF SOVIET DELEGATIONS BUT NEVER AS A GRANTEE. SHE WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE POST ON EXCHANGE OF PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS AS WELL AS OTHER CULTURAL MATTERS. HER INTEREST INCLUDE THE PLASTIC ARTS, AND STAY IN US COULD AFFORD EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE HER TO USR ART SCENE, WITH POSSIBLE PROGRAMMING PAY-OFF IN THIS FIELD AS WELL ON HER RETURN.

5. THESE TWO NOMINEES ARE IN VITAL POSITIONS IN THE MANAGE-
MENT OF OUR PAGS AND IN SELECTION PROCESS OF PAGS OUTSIDE
THE PROGRAM, AND WE EXPECT CONCRETE BENEFITS AS A RESULT
OF THE INCREASED KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING THEY WOULD
GAIN. WHILE POST WILL ATTEMPT OBTAIN SINGLE NOMINEE FOR FUTURE
MULTI-REGIONAL PROGRAMS IN WHICH IT HOPES STIMULATE SOVIET PART-
CIPATION, EPEICAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF SOVIET EXCHANGES AT
TIME MAE DOUBLE NOMINATION ADVISABLE, AND THIS APPROACH HAS
BEEN APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT IN PAST, E.G., COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PROGRAM.
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